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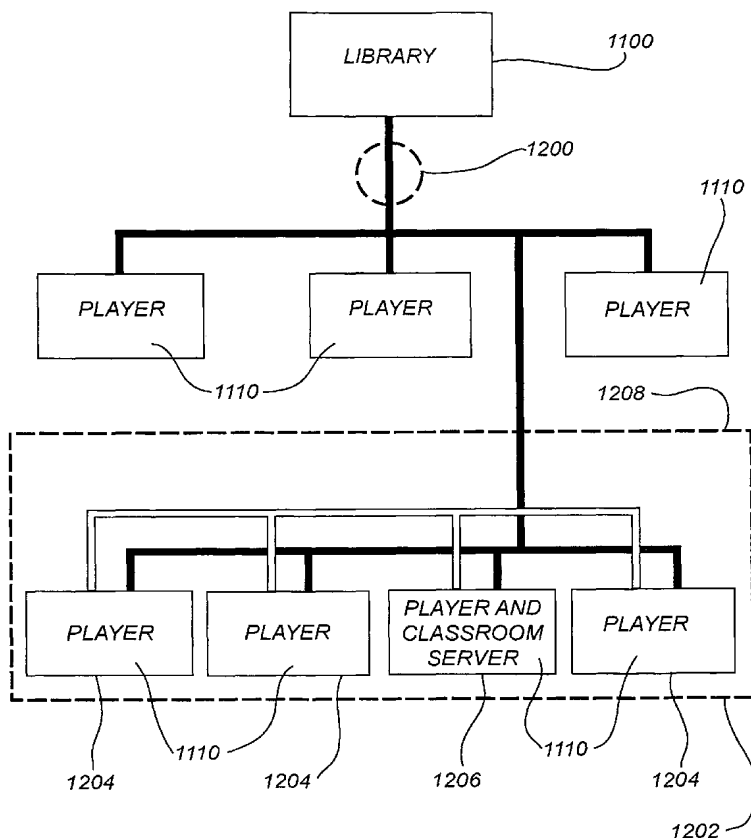
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(54) **Title:** MEDIA STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION IN A LOCAL AREA NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** Software for storing and distributing media in a local area network is disclosed. The software comprises library software and player. The library software manages encrypted media files, for example, video files, and sends them to the player on request. The media files may be chapterised and the player may request one or more chapters. The player decodes the encrypted file and displays it. The player improves performance by using predictive chapter buffering, requesting the transfer of the next chapter from the library at time so that the file is completely received and ready to play at the time the current media playing is complete. The player minimises the number of requests to the library by automatically creating a public folder of received files so that requests for one of the received files in the folder are transferred from the library to the player.

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